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# WOMEN IN GENDER SOCIALIZATION AND FEMINISM

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#### TABLE OF CONTENT

# Prelude

- 1. Introduction to the Subject
- 2. Importance and Objectives of the Study
- 3. Methodology
- 4. Reports of Previous Studies
- 5. Scope of the paper
- 6. Feminism
  - 6.1 Feminist Perspectives in Gender Socialization
  - 6.2 Problems of Gender Socialization
- 7. Conclusion

References

#### **PRELUDE**

#### 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

The main topic of our paper is Women in Gender Socialization and Feminism.

In India, patriarchal society has played a significant role in gender division. Since women are born with equal rights like men, they have the right to live equally with men. The main theme of feminism is the thought that emerged in the minds of women to live on equal terms with men. There are various flaws in gender socialization. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the issue and change the traditional division of labor between men and women and equal dignity should be given to both men and women. The main purpose of our paper is to analyze gender inequalities. In the course of the time, the increasing violence against women has forced feminists to stand up for women. Domestic violence is the physical and mental abuse of women done by the patriarchal community considering them as the weakest section of society. There are many cases of physical and mental abuse against wives and



violence against women for dowry. These problems have arisen due to gender socialization that does not recognize men and women equally in society. This paper attempts to discuss these issues.

#### 2. IMPORTANCE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The importance and purpose of our paper is to analytically study gender inequality from a feminist perspective. How is the role of women in gender socialization defined in India, whether it needs to be revised, if so why or whether gender-based socialization is causing any problems in society? The main purpose of this paper is to study these issues in detail. Our paper is of considerable importance. There is a need to study how gender segregation has created problems such as violence against women in the social context. Our paper discusses gender socialization, gender-based division of labor, its problems and feminist perspectives on gender socialization.

#### 3. METHODOLOGY

Analytical methods have been used in preparing this paper.

#### 4. PREVIOUS STUDIES

Till date, lots of books have already discussed feminism, violence against women, sexual harassment, gender discrimination and inequality in gender socialization. Noted books on feminism in the English language are-- "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" by Mary Wollstonecraft, "Elements on Women in the History of Philosophy" and "Westminster Review" by Harriet Taylor Mill, "Ancient Society" by American anthropologist Lewis Henry Morgan and "The Second Sex" by Simone de Beauvoir. Prominent books published in the Assamese language focusing on feminism as theme are-"Naribad" by Aparna Mahanta, "Naribad: Tatwa Aru Prayog" by Dr. Diganta Hatibarua and "Naribad Aru Asomiya Upanyas" by Dr. Govinda Prasad Sarmah. Our research focuses on inequality in gender socialization and the problems it causes.

#### 5. SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The scope of the research is narrow. The theme of the paper is gender socialization from the feminist perspective. The paper is prepared in this context Indian women. Since feminism speaks out against violence against women, women's rights and that is why the solution to the burning problem of violence against women in the present day's society should be found out by relying on feminism. Our research discusses the roles of men and women in society in this connection and the resulting women's problems and violence against women.

### 6. FEMINISM

It is worth mentioning that women can do everything that men can do. Feminism is against patriarchy, it is not against men.

Feminism raises voice for equality by eliminating all forms of gender-based political, economic, social and cultural differences between women and men. This holistic feminism developed in the liberal democratic political environment of the West. It developed mainly under the inspiration of western theory individual freedom and democracy. Feminism originated in the 19th century. Initially, feminist thought took root in France. In the 1880s, the feminist movement systematically took its growth in the West and then the discussion of women's issues spread around the world. According to feminism, women and men are equal in this world. There can be no discrimination between men and women. Feminism says that men and women are equal in terms of quality. Gender discrimination on the



grounds of physical ability is against natural law but our society neglects women without establishing this truth. They are socialized as second class citizens. The status of women in society is viewed with suspicion, resulting in the decline of women's position, rights, authority, etc. Women become puppets in the hands of men and objects of enjoyment. The conscious society began to think scientifically against the oppression and injustice against women that had been going on since historical times and this eventually became known as the feminist movement. There was a lot of criticism of feminism and it is still criticized by some defenders of patriarchy. There is much debate about the concept of feminism, but some feminist books also clarify the concept of feminism. "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" by Mary Wollstonecraft, "The Second Sex" by Simone de Beauvoir helped to clarify the concept of feminism

There are three types of feminism:

- 1. Liberal feminism
- 2. Socialist feminism
- 3. Reformed feminism

# 6.1 Feminist Perspectives in Gender Socialization

Society has left such mistakes in the socialization of women that getting birth as girl seemed to be a crime once upon a time. Gender socialization in society is a very important topic of feminist studies. Gender socialization does not show the social statuses of men and women by being educated with knowledge. Socialization is an effort to introduce people living in a society to social and cultural aspects. After birth, socialization is done by gender division to determine which a boy is and which a girl is. Family, educational institutions, social institutions, religion, environment, and mass media play a role in gender socialization. Society has socialized gender in this way after a girl is born, her ear is pierced, and according to the tradition, she is dressed in girl's clothes. In childhood, girls are given to play with toy of brides and grooms, introduced with utensils, etc., while boys are allowed to play with weapons and heavy equipments. Boys are taught how to run the house, help their fathers, go to work outside the house. At the same time, girls are advised to learn perform the household works socially set only for women, such as cleaning, cooking etc. If she does not learn them, she has face with abusive language of the family members. After all, if the girl does not learn or does not do the things that the society has fixed for them, it will be anti-social. Educational institutions also socialize gender by fixing dress code for girls.

While boys play football, volleyball and cricket, girls are provided with ludo and rings. Separate educational institutions are established for boys and girls. This makes students feel that you are a boy and the other is a girl. Religion has also socialized gender. Women are usually not allowed to take the lead in religious activities on baseless reasons. Men are given priority in this regard. Women were not allowed to trade. In the past, all the nerchants (mudais and sadagars in the Assamese language) were men. Society does not recognize women to go out for any work outside the home. Women are described as less hardworking than men. Women have to usually withdraw from important areas because they are dependent on men. Flaws are traced in every step of a woman. As the girl grows older, she is gradually restricted but no such restrictions can be seen in the case of a boy. When a girl wants to do something unique and exceptional, she is warned with a traditional sentence that "what society will say?" But a boy is not warned like this way. Boys are free from such restrictions.

#### **6.2 Problems of Gender Socialization:**

Due to gender socialization, our society is currently facing serious problems like oppression of women and violence against women, because society has established men as powerful since his birth, made



men free from almost all the restrictions and made rules that men can do whatever they want. Violence against women has been going on since ancient times ---husbands abuse wives, mother-in-laws abuse daughters-in-law. They face such violence for not being able to have children, division of household chores or domestic works, dowry going out without permission of husband, not preparing food on time, not doing the assigned work on time, giving birth to a girl child etc.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it is clear that gender socialization requires a feminist approach. This has done greater harm to the women's society. We must be vigilant to eliminate these issues. To avoid domestic violence or abuse, women must be nourished with socialist ideas and become self-reliant. Women must speak up for their rights. Women can not only manage the household, raise take care of children, but can do many things also by pursuing higher education and being engaged in jobs and businesses like men. In modern times, this is more or less possible, but the traditional society also hit women in many places with insulting comments. Therefore, feminism calls on the women to stop the habit of tolerance and speak out for their rights. Women must learn to cope with the situation in society.

#### 8. AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

The authors agreed to have no connections or engagements with any group or body that provides financial and non-financial assistance for the topics and resources covered in the article.

#### 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declared that no potential conflicts of interest concerning the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

# 10. PLAGIARISM POLICY

The authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright, and ethical matters will be handled by all authors. Journalists and editors are not liable for the aforesaid matters.

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